

2. (Amended) The process of [C]claim 1, wherein [said] the protocol of communication used for establishing a link with the [remote] management server is a Videotex protocol, such as teletel protocol.

3. (Amended) The process of [C]claim 1, wherein [said] the protocol of communication used for establishing a link with the [remote] management server is a protocol of TCP/IP type.

4. The process of [C]claim 1, wherein said step of data exchange further comprises: [a step of acquisition by the user of] the user entering into the supervision terminal an identifier including at least one of a password [or] and a personal identification number.

5. (Amended) The process of [C]claim 1, wherein said step of data exchange further comprises:

[a step of display] displaying, at the supervision terminal [, on the one hand, of] (1) a list of [the] printing heads associated with the [user's] plurality of franking machines, and[, on the other hand,] (2) for each printing head, [of] a last invoicing index validated by the management server.

2nd d 27 6. (Amended) The process of [C]claim 5, wherein said step of data exchange further comprises:

[a step of display] displaying, at the supervision terminal, one of a selectable plurality of tables and[/or of] statistics in graph form relating to [this] the list of printing heads.

7. (Amended) The process of [C]claim 1, wherein [said] the code of authorization to frank comprises information [relative to] indicative of one of (1) an authorized maximum amount of credit [or], (2) an authorized maximum amount of consumption, and (3) a period of franking.

8. (Amended) The process of [C]claim 1, wherein [said] the code of authorization to frank is obtained by calculation from [in particular said] one of the current invoicing index and[/or the] a serial number of a printing head.

9. (Amended) The process of [C]claim 1, wherein [said] the code of authorization to frank is obtained by calculation from [in particular the] a current date.

10. (Amended) The process of [C]claim 1, wherein [said] the code of [authorization] authorization to frank is obtained by calculation from [in particular the]

sub E1) information [relative to] indicative of one of (1) a maximum amount of credit [or], (2) a maximum amount of authorized consumption [authorized], and[/or to a] (3) an authorized period of franking [authorized].

11. (Amended) The process of [C]claim 1, wherein [said] the protocol of communication used for establishing a link with the [remote] management server is a protocol of telephonic communication of [the] a vocal synthesis type.

sub d 3) 12. (Amended) [Process] A process for monitoring the consumptions of a plurality of franking machines through a public communication network, [wherein it comprises] the process comprising the steps of:

[firstly] first establishing a link with a management server[, ] through the public communications network, [by means of at least one] via a supervision terminal that is independent of [this] the plurality of franking machines, in accordance with a [determined] protocol of communication[, ]; and

[then] subsequently proceeding with an exchange of data between the supervision terminal and the management server during which [the] a user (1) [acquires] inputs at the supervision terminal an identifier including at least one of a password [or] and a personal identification number, and (2) receives [in return the possibility of selecting in] from a display [menu] of [said] the supervision terminal [the acquisition] one of (a) a selectable menu of new indexes [or the display] and (b) a menu of the last indexes validated by the management server as